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What is claimed is:

1. A convergent service control platform for provisioning a communications  
service as requested by a service operator for a subscriber served by the operator, the  
5 platform comprising  
a plurality of geographically-dispersed convergent services nodes, one of  
the services nodes serving the service operator,  
a communications network connected to the nodes, and  
a database, connected to the communications network, containing  
10 information about the service operator, the subscriber, and the communications service  
provisioned by the platform, the database storing information for at least one of the  
service nodes to configure the communications service provisioned by the platform.
2. The platform as recited in claim 1 wherein the database is a central database.
- 15 3. The platform as recited in claim 1 wherein the database is distributed with data  
consistency maintained by precluding multiple copies of the same data.
4. The platform as recited in claim 1 wherein the communications service is  
20 provisioned by one of the convergent services nodes distinct from the one serving the  
operator.

5. The platform as recited in claim 1 wherein the communications network is a proprietary network.

6. The platform as recited in claim 1 wherein the convergent services nodes are  
5 also connected via conventional networks, including the Internet, the public switched telephone network, the SS7 signaling network, and the wireless network.

7. The platform as recited in claim 6 further including an external application server wherein the communications service utilizes the external application server and is  
10 accessible to the operator via the convergent services nodes in conjunction with the conventional networks.

8. The platform recited in claim 6 wherein the communications network is distinct from the conventional networks.

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9. The system recited in claim 1 wherein each of the convergent service nodes comprises

a local network,

a network bridge, coupled to the communications network and the local

20 network, for supporting a plurality of communication protocols

an application server, coupled to the local network, having an application program to configure the communications service whenever the communications service is provisioned by one of said convergent service nodes,

a node database, coupled to the local network, storing information about the service operator, the subscriber, and the communication service whenever the communications service is provisioned by one of said convergent service nodes,

a service monitor, coupled to the local network, for monitoring the  
5 communication service whenever the communications service is provisioned by one of said convergent service nodes, and

a router, coupled to the local network, for passing messages and event notifications via the local network to the local application, the service monitor, the node database, and the network bridge.

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10. A convergent service control platform for concurrently provisioning a plurality of communications services as requested by a service operator for a subscriber served by the operator, the platform comprising

a plurality of geographically-dispersed convergent services nodes, one of  
15 the services nodes serving the service operator,

a communications network connected to the nodes, and

a database, connected to the communications network, containing information about the service operator, the subscriber, and the communications services provisioned by the platform, the database storing information for at least one of the  
20 service nodes to configure the communications services provisioned by the platform.

11. The platform as recited in claim 10 wherein the database is a central database.

12. The platform as recited in claim 10 wherein the database is distributed with data consistency maintained by precluding multiple copies of the same data.

13. The platform as recited in claim 10 wherein the communications services are  
5 provisioned by at least one of the convergent services nodes distinct from the one serving the operator.

14. The platform as recited in claim 10 wherein the communications network is a proprietary network.

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15. The platform as recited in claim 10 wherein the convergent services nodes are also connected via conventional networks, including the Internet, the public switched telephone network, the SS7 signaling network, and the wireless network.

15 16. The platform as recited in claim 15 further including an external application server wherein at least one of the communications services is provisioned in the external application server and is accessible to the operator via the convergent services nodes in conjunction with the conventional networks.

20 17. The platform as recited in claim 15 wherein the communications network is distinct from the conventional networks.

18. The platform as recited in claim 10 wherein each of a plurality of service operators is coupled to the platform via the convergent services nodes so that each of the service operators may concurrently provide a plurality of subscribers with a multiplicity of communications services.

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19. A method for provisioning a communications service, in conjunction with a platform composed of (a) a plurality of geographically-dispersed convergent services nodes, one of the services nodes serving the service operator; (b) a communication network connected to the nodes; and (c) a database containing information about the service operator, the subscriber, and the communications service provisioned by the platform, the service being requested by a service operator for a subscriber served by the operator, the method comprising

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receiving a service request for the communication service by one of the convergent service nodes as transmitted from the service operator via said one of the services nodes, and

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provisioning the requested service under the control of at least one of the convergent service nodes.

20. The method as recited in claim 19 wherein the database is distributed and the method further includes maintaining data consistency in the distributed database.

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